



# NEWSLETTER

**No. 711**  
**w/c Mon 17 May 2021**  
**Week A**

## THOUGHT OF THE FORTNIGHT

*“People take different roads seeking fulfillment and happiness. Just because they're not on your road doesn't mean they've gotten lost.”*

Dalai Lama

Dear parents/carers,

### “May 17<sup>th</sup>”

- Next week sees the lifting of several covid restrictions nationally. In schools, the most significant change is that mask wearing for students is no longer recommended/all-but compulsory. So, students do not have to wear masks as from Monday. However, they may continue to do so if they wish. And, as reported nationally, if there are local covid spikes in the future, masks could be reintroduced.
- On School and Public Transport nothing has changed, masks must be worn, and “no mask = no travel” policies still apply.
- Otherwise, all the other protections and preventions remain in place. Bubbles, staggered break and lunch, hand hygiene, cleaning, ventilation, and the one-way system. This is logical enough: relaxing mask-wearing is seen as a risk, so it makes sense to keep the other preventions in place for the time being.
- Members of staff are advised to continue to wear masks where social distancing is not possible and, like students, may wish to do so at other times. While the vaccination roll-out has been a great success, the majority of my colleagues have not yet been vaccinated. I've noted before that government rhetoric sometimes skims over that schools are also places of work with large workforces, and teachers are human too!
- Devon CC have reminded schools to remind parents that as restrictions begin to lift, some families may be looking to take holidays during term time. As usual, parents should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission to take their children out of school on holiday as this absence will not be authorised and could lead to further action, including fines.

### Year 7 Parents Evening

- Thank you to Year 7 parents for engaging so positively and successfully (including learning new technology) on Wednesday evening. It was a good evening, at a good time. Year 7 students have been back in College for almost eight weeks and there should be a good chunk of the term left in which to consolidate learning and work on the EBIs (“even better if). Generally-speaking, Year 7 are doing very well and have coped pretty well with lockdown and missing the Spring Term; most have met the challenge of settling back into a focused routine.

### Testing (Lateral Flow)

- The message remains the same: all school staff and students are encouraged to keep home-testing twice a week. This is a key safeguard in reducing the risk of transmission, and is arguably even more important from Monday when other safeguards have been relaxed.

- We have been informed that the next distribution of home tests will be the “Orient Gene” tests. These tests involve double nasal swab samples only – a throat sample is not needed. As before, these devices return a positive or negative result in under 30 minutes. The excitement never ends!
- Further details are available from the [schools and colleges document sharing platform](#)

### **Vaccinations (no, not those vaccinations...)**

- Parents and carers will have been contacted separately about this, but just to note that Year 8 (Monday) and Years 9&10 (Tuesday) will have HPV vaccinations next week.

### **Grades**

- The process continues for Years 11, 13 and about half of Year 12. Next week is a major week for the controlled “AAM” assessments, although some continue into the next week. There are one or two forms that students will complete to confirm that they know the assessments and other evidence being used, and to authenticate that the evidence is their own. Then it’s over to my colleagues, who will be assigning a grade to the folder of evidence overall using exam board level descriptions. The next steps are moderation in department teams, and then a second round of moderation by members of the Senior Leadership Team. Grades will be submitted by 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- For more detailed information, Ofqual have published their [Student Guide to Awarding Summer 2021](#), which tells students what they need to know about how grades will be awarded this summer.
- Although the process this year is definitely better and fairer than last year, this makes little difference to this year’s students for whom it is their first and only experience. Clearly, students are all individuals, but we cannot underestimate the concern or worry some young people are experiencing. Until those grades are in their hands in August, and the grades are a fair representation of their ability, then many students will not be able to relax fully. Again, the speculation in the media and social media isn’t at all helpful. One of the most recent reports was that we can expect inflated results, with the implication that these results would somehow not be as good or valuable. It’s actually quite insulting, because teachers across the land are trying their best to be professional and fair, and the results at an individual level will be just as valuable.

### **The Big Step**

- Further details on our Summer Transition Programme Week from 23/8/21: this is for current Year 6 pupils transferring to Clyst Vale in September, and will be held on site. The programme will be delivered by The Big Step and will be **free of charge** for all, including lunches. The programme will deliver a range of activities designed to prepare students for the transition to Clyst Vale in September. Importantly, there will also be a “hidden” curriculum which will target numeracy and literacy skills. Clearly, the week aims to help smooth transition, develop confidence, and make new friends. Although the programme is externally run, CVCC staff will visit to introduce themselves. So far, we have been delighted that 127 of the year group have registered!

### **Post-half-term plans**

- There are a few important changes which we will be implementing, so this is advance notice.
- We will move **Year 10**’s breaks and lunchtimes so that they will take these in the later slots at 11.20 and 13.45; their timetable in terms of dates, order of lessons, etc will not change; their lunchtime arrangements and zones will not change. Currently, like Years 7 and 9, their day is 1 lesson; break; 2 lessons; lunch; 2 lessons – it will become 2 lessons; break; 2 lessons; lunch; 1 lesson (the old or normal pattern). The change is to even up and redistribute the year groups at social times, which further reduces the risk of mixing and transmission; I believe the change will be approved by the students themselves.
- A knock-on effect of this is that **Year 9**’s break and lunchtime arrangements improve. After half-term they will move to the Giraffe House from the Post-16 café. Their hard-standing area will continue to be the plaza; and their third of the field will be the bit currently occupied by Year 11, ie nearest the plaza.

- A significant change for students in **all years** will be that we are ceasing the PE kit hybrid uniform, also from half-term. It was a good idea, but it has served its purpose and is now becoming a problem. Students will need to bring in PE kit separately, and we will be using the changing rooms with an enhanced cleaning regime. It is helpful that Year 11 will not be here to use the changing rooms, that the weather is warmer, and that the summer PE programme means far fewer muddy boots and much quicker changing. Like everything, this will be kept under review and could change if the local situation changed. I suppose you could say that this is aiding the transition to normality: the PE Kit uniform is soft and baggy, a bit like lockdown clothing (fleece sales rocketed), and we are now moving to uniform full-time as a symbol of purpose and focus.
- I have mentioned Big Step above. We would love to have at least an induction day for **Year 6** before the end of term, but this is complex and covid-dependent.
- It does look like we will have a leaving event for **Year 11**, provisionally 25<sup>th</sup> June. We're actually consulting students at the moment. We have found a venue for a Prom, which is exciting (but again covid-dependent). While I know most students would love a Prom, I do think we need to manage expectations a little – Proms can be very expensive for individuals, and not every family has got through lockdown financially sound. If we can manage a Prom, we want everyone to be there, not put off by the expense and expectations.
- Again, provisional “hold the date” stuff: we are intending to have an induction/taster day for Year 11 students joining our Sixth form in September on 21<sup>st</sup> June. (Wouldn't want this to clash with potential Prom dress-fitting, probably too early for hair...)
- Later in the term Year 10 students interested in Post-16 will also be offered taster lessons, provisionally 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July.

### **Autumn Exams**

- Looking well ahead, it has been announced that a series of Autumn Exams at GCSE, AS, and A-level will be offered. This is similar to last year, for students who are unhappy with their grades. Last year this was a “triple lock” to ensure fairness for candidates. This year's rhetoric is much more matter-of-fact: “The exams will be in their normal format, with no adaptations being made. Reasonable adjustments will be made for disabled students. For clarification, the exams will assess students in the same way as had been planned for exams in summer 2021. For example: in GCSE English literature, history and ancient history, students will answer questions on a reduced number of topics. In GCSE and AS geography, students will not have to answer questions in the exam about their own fieldwork experience. In GCSE MFL students will have a speaking endorsement rather than a speaking test.”

### **Internet Exploitation**

- “Safe, Happy and Successful”, and of these “Safe” comes first. We have been alarmed to discover that a small number of students have been subject to internet exploitation through social media. The students' parents have been contacted individually, and the matter reported to Devon & Cornwall Police and the relevant safeguarding agencies. We believe that students in other schools may also have been affected. It is always a worry when these issues happen, and parents/carers are strongly recommended to discuss on-line safety with their children. In the coming days we will be refreshing the importance of on-line safety with students. We have a range of information and materials on our website, including links to specialist organisations; this is under “On-line safety” on the tab for Parents. If you have any particular or specific concerns, please contact the relevant AtHoS in the first instance. The good news, if you can call it that, is that very few students have been involved, from just one year group, and that it has been nipped in the bud before consequences became very serious.

Best wishes,



Kevin Bawn  
Principal

### Evenings, weekends and holidays– reporting of Covid-19 positive test results

We have introduced a dedicated phone number, solely for reporting positive Covid-19 test results at evenings and weekends

(At all other times, please contact Student Absence on 01392 463911 or e-mail: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org))

The number is: **07818 212 931**

It is not for suspected cases, non-Covid-19 illness or absence, and is not an advice line. Please text positive Covid-19 test result information to this number, including:

- Name of student
- Student's tutor group
- Date symptoms appeared
- Which symptoms, or no symptoms
- Date of test
- Date of test result

If necessary, someone will contact you having received this information. Thank you!



## STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



### YELLOW SCHOOL

9YMPR	Harrison James
10YRB	Gracie Bauer

### RED SCHOOL

7RHPI	Brayden Burns
7RZB	Lucy Jones
8RAR	Sam Cherry
10RTMA	Katie Goddard
11RGK	Oliver Churchill

### GREEN SCHOOL

8GAW	Ella Quant
8GBA	Archie Walters
9GNB	Izzy Jackson-Lawson
9GSW	Riley Lovegrove
10GGT	Sophie Elliott

## **Attendance, Absence and Requests for Absence**

Please let the College know of any absence on the first day it occurs.

If the absence continues beyond the first day, please contact the College on each subsequent day of absence, too. To comply with safeguarding obligations, we cannot simply assume a student's sickness absence is ongoing; we need to be certain that the reason for absence is due to continuing illness.

If you do not notify the College, then we will make contact with you to identify the reason for absence. This is important as it helps to reduce unauthorised absences and truancy.

Please note, the College may ask you to provide medical proof if a student is absent from College due to illness.

### **Medical Appointments**

We encourage students to maximise their levels of attendance; research indicates a direct link between attendance and examination performance. The timing of many medical appointments means that often students can attend school first, and return afterwards. By doing so, students minimise missed learning whilst keeping their attendance levels as high as possible. Therefore, we ask that parents/carers send their child into school for morning registration, even when a medical appointment takes place in the middle of the morning. Similarly, appointments scheduled for the afternoon should, where possible, be arranged after Period 4 - during lunchtime. Students are encouraged to return to school after a lunchtime appointment, if they can.

Thank you for your support in helping your child maximise their attendance and learning.

#### **For Years 7 - 11 Absences**

Please ring:

Penni Ball/Sharon Leaman (Attendance Officers)

Direct line: 01392 463911

Email: [studentabsence@clystvale.org](mailto:studentabsence@clystvale.org)

#### **For Year 12 - 13 Absences**

Please ring:

Jassy Barrington (Post-16 PA)

Direct line: 01392 462697

Email: [barringtonj@clystvale.org](mailto:barringtonj@clystvale.org)

## COLLEGE DRESS

Clyst Vale aims to maintain a simple pattern of College dress to promote a clear sense of identity and enable students to come sensibly dressed, at reasonable cost, for a range of learning activities. If a student is improperly dressed, correct uniform will be provided for that day or the student may be sent home to change his/her clothing, at the discretion of the Principal. **If parents are in any doubt about the suitability of an item of uniform they should check with the College before buying it.**

### **Uniform for all students in Years 7 to 11**

- White collared shirt
- School colour tie
- Clyst Vale V-neck jumper with College logo.
- Boys trousers - Banner Slimbridge (Black)/Banner Falmouth (Black).
- Girls trousers - Trutex GTN (2 pocket black)/David Luke DL965 black).
- **All trousers must have Clyst Vale logo rivet on waistband.**
- Skirts - Blue Tartan and knee length
- Trutex Senior stitched down/Taylor Tartan (blue) skirt and may be worn no more than 2" above the knee. Knee length black tailored shorts may be worn.
- Black sturdy shoes or **all black** trainers.
- White socks or black tights with skirts.
- Clyst Vale reversible jacket or other outdoor coat.

***All uniform and PE Kit can be purchased from Thomas Moore, Exeter. Thomas Moore offers both a personal service in their shop and also the opportunity to order on line at [www.thomasmooretoymaster.co.uk](http://www.thomasmooretoymaster.co.uk)***

- Eyebrow jewellery, facial, tongue, nose and lip studs are not permitted.
- Leather jackets, all denim garments and all hoodies are not permitted.
- Hats should not be worn indoors.
- Outer coats should be predominantly plain in colour and without large logos.
- A plain white t-shirt or vest may be worn under the shirt.
- On health and safety grounds, shoes should be appropriate for a work place. Flipflops, open toes, Uggs, Dr Martens (or equivalent) are not permitted.
- Jewellery may be worn, providing it is not excessive or potentially hazardous. However, it is a legal requirement that all jewellery must be removed before undertaking sporting activities. It is the responsibility of the wearer to do this.

The Principal, in consultation with the Governors of the College, will decide on the suitability of the appearance of a student attending the College - extreme hair styles, of either cut or colour, are not permitted.

# CALENDAR DATES

DATE	EVENT
Fri 28 May	Staff INSET Day (students not in school)
Mon 31 May - Fri 4 June	Half Term
Sat 12 - Monday 14 June	Silver D of E Event (TBC)
Mon 14 - Weds 16 June	Y7 Geography Fieldwork (TBC)
Thurs 17 June 6.00pm - 7.30pm	Y6 Non-Feeder Schools' Evening (TBC)
Fri 18 June	Deadline for Grades to Exam Boards
Tues 22 June	Deep Learning Day (TBC)
Thurs 24 & Fri 25 June	Y10 Geography Fieldwork (TBC)
Fri 25 June 6pm - 11pm	Y11 School Prom
Sat 03 - Tues 08 July	Gold DofE, Y12 & Y13
Mon 05 - Tues 06 July	Y10 Taster Days - Post 16
Mon 05 - Weds 07 July	Y8 Geography Fieldwork
Weds 07 - Fri 09 July	New Intake Induction Days
Mon 12 July 6.00pm - 8.00pm	New Intake Parents' Evening
Weds 14 July	Sports Day
Thurs 15 July	Sports Day (reserve date)
Fri 16 & Sat 17 (all day) & Sun 18 July (half day)	School Production Rehearsal
Mon 19 July	Y9 Geography Eden Project
w/b 19 July (all week)	Y10 and Y12 Work Experience
Fri 23 July	LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Principal:** Kevin Bawn, BA PhD

**Address:** Clyst Vale Community College, Station Road, Broadclyst, Exeter, Devon EX5 3AJ

**Tel:** 01392 461407 **Email:** [admin@clystvale.org](mailto:admin@clystvale.org) **Web:** [www.clystvale.org](http://www.clystvale.org)

**Library:** 01392 464010

